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CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT**7 FEBRUARY 2019**

(U) CALIFORNIA**(U) Long Beach - Customs and Border Protection Officer Accused of Illegally Selling Guns**

(U) Wei Xu, 56, a US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officer at the Los Angeles and Long Beach Seaport, was recently taken into custody on charges of unlawfully selling firearms. Allegedly Xu sold or otherwise transferred at least 70 firearms through a federal firearms license dealer since 2014. Court papers allege Xu exploited his status as a law enforcement officer to purchase and then transfer at least 14 "off-roster" handguns that cannot be sold to the general public. Federal prosecutors allege the firearms included an off-roster pistol, high-capacity magazines, and a short-barreled rifle.

SOURCE: 6 February 2019, [Whittier Daily News](#)

(U) Oakland - Six People Charged with Drug, Gun-Related Crimes

(U) Deantae Kennedy-Palmer, Daniel James, Terry Walker Sr., Paul Rivera, Sterling Walker, and Darryl Washington are all facing lengthy prison sentences after prosecutors charged them with various crimes related to allegedly trafficking guns and drugs throughout Alameda County. The investigation was based on an undercover purchase by an agent with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), as well as a federal informant. Over several months, the informant and the ATF agent bought 35 guns from the group, as well as nearly three pounds of cocaine, and more than a pound of crack cocaine.

SOURCE: 7 February 2019, [East Bay Times](#)

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER**(U) Texas - Gunfire Strikes Border Patrol SUV**

(U) El Paso - The FBI is investigating a recent alleged assault on a US Border Patrol agent. The FBI says someone fired shots at the agent on 31 January and is offering a \$2,500 reward for information leading to the arrest of the person or persons responsible. The Border Patrol said the incident occurred approximately three-quarters of a mile east of the Bridge of the Americas Port-of-Entry. The agent was in his marked vehicle traveling east just south of the Border Highway, directly across from the X monument across the border in Ciudad de Juarez when the gunfire struck his vehicle.

SOURCE: 6 February 2019, [KVIA News](#)

(U) NATIONAL**(U) Alabama - Shooting of Boy Leads to Take-Down of Large Drug Operation**

(U) Auburn - Worldly Holstick, 36; Marguis Miller, 37; and Lester Young, 35, were the last of 19 members sentenced in federal court for their participation in a drug trafficking organization that stretched from Alabama to California. Their arrest followed an investigation that began after an 11-year-old boy was shot while sitting in a vehicle outside one of Holstick's residences in Auburn, Alabama in 2016. During the investigation, officers found video of the shooting as well as evidence of conspiracy to possess and sell cocaine, marijuana, and various firearms.

SOURCE: 6 February 2019, [WRBL News](#)

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UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY**(U) District of Columbia - New al-Qa'ida Leader Video Shows Terrorist Group is Still a Threat**

(U) Washington - The latest message from al-Qa'ida leader Ayman al-Zawahiri urges supporters to unite against their enemies. Zawahiri warned that "Muslims face enemies from many sides" including Shiite Muslims, Americans, Russians, French, and Chinese, in a video released Tuesday, according to the SITE Intelligence Group. The latest US intelligence assessment on al-Qa'ida released last week is that senior leaders are "strengthening the network's global command structure," as part of its effort to inspire and encourage attacks against the West. US intelligence acknowledged, however, that although most attacks by al-Qa'ida affiliates have been relatively small scale and limited to regional areas, that could change. Pakistan remains key to dealing with al-Qa'ida, according to US officials, so long as core al-Qa'ida leaders like Zawahiri are suspected of remaining hidden there.

SOURCE: 6 February 2019, [CNN](#)

(U) District of Columbia - Terror Suspect Wanted by US Deported to Turkey

(U) Washington - A Turkish man, Adem Yilmaz, who is wanted for prosecution in the United States on terrorism charges has instead been deported by Germany back to his home country, US officials said yesterday. Yilmaz was indicted in 2015 on charges of participating in attacks on US military forces along the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan. He was also charged with giving advice and instructions on military-type training to a man involved in a 2008 suicide bombing in Afghanistan that killed two American soldiers and injured at least 11 others. Yilmaz told police that he remained a member of a group called the Islamic Jihad Union and that "as long as the war is going on, I will fight against the Americans." The indictment against Yilmaz, unsealed earlier this week, includes charges of providing material support to a terrorist organization, and aiding and abetting military-style training.

SOURCE: 6 February 2019, [Washington Times](#)

(U) New York - Afghan Man Extradited to US for Trying to Fund Terrorism with Drug Sale Profits

(U) New York City - An Afghan man, Haji Manaf, 53, was recently extradited from Estonia to the United States to face charges that he tried to traffic thousands of kilograms of heroin into New York and use the profits to help fund the Taliban and the Haqqani network, prosecutors announced yesterday. In August, Manaf allegedly arranged for a sample sale of the drug with an undercover DEA agent and four informants, according to court documents.

SOURCE: 6 February 2019, [NY Post](#)

(U) Ohio - A Dozen Elementary Students Exposed to Marijuana Gummies

(U) Cleveland - On 4 February, a teacher's aide at Anton Grdina elementary school in Cleveland found marijuana gummies in a room that children were in, and noticed the packaging said the candy contained drugs, according to a Cleveland Division of Police report. The school called police and emergency medical services. Cleveland Police arrested Shari Gould, the mother of a student who they say brought the candy to the school, on suspicion of endangering children. The police report says the student gave the candy to at least 12 others, who were taken to the hospital and later released. The case is an example of how accidental exposure to marijuana in young children can lead to health concerns.

SOURCE: 6 February 2019, [KTLA News](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL**(U) Colombia - Venezuela Blocks Border Bridge where Aid is set to Arrive**

(U) Cucuta - The Venezuelan government has blocked a bridge connecting Venezuela to Colombia, according to Colombian officials. The move effectively blocks the passage of humanitarian aid called for by Venezuela's opposition, should it be delivered via this route. An oil tanker and two large blue containers positioned midway across the three-lane Tienditas Bridge, which connects Colombia with

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Venezuela. Cucuta is one of three collection points for international humanitarian aid called for by Venezuela's self-declared president Juan Guaido amid Venezuela's debilitating economic crisis. USAID has begun packaging pallets of foodstuffs after the US National Security Adviser's announcement last week that it would send humanitarian aid.

SOURCE: 6 February 2019, [CNN](#)

(U) Mexico - 19 Bodies Found in Secret Graves

(U) Santa Rosa - Authorities in Mexico's Pacific coast state of Colima say they have recovered 19 bodies from 11 clandestine gravesites. The state prosecutor's office says the bodies were found on a plot of land in Santa Rosa. Colima Governor Jose Ignacio Peralta Sanchez recently told local media that he could not rule out finding more bodies. Gov. Sanchez said Colima has a serious organized crime problem, but it was too early to say which criminal group was responsible. Colima had the highest murder rate in Mexico at 113 per 100,000 residents in 2017, according to Mexico's national statistics institute.

SOURCE: 7 February 2019, [The Australian](#)

(U) Norway - China Hacked Software Firm Visma to Steal Information

(U) Oslo - Hackers working on behalf of Chinese intelligence breached the network of Norwegian software firm Visma to steal sensitive information in what a company executive described as a potentially catastrophic attack that was part of a larger hacking campaign known as "Cloudhopper." The attack was accomplished by using a stolen set of login credentials and was conducted by a hacking group known as Advanced Persistent Threat (APT) 10, which Western officials say is behind the Cloudhopper campaign. In December 2018, the US charged two alleged members of APT 10 with hacking US government agencies on behalf of China's Ministry of State Security.

SOURCE: 6 February 2019, [Strait Times](#)

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